

MINUTES

Leawood Arts Council

December 1, 2020

Conducted via Zoom and livestreamed on YouTube

Present: Anne Blessing, Stephanie Hamil, Dave Hazen, Burton Dunbar, Carl McCaffree, Julia Steinberg, Michael Shirley, and Kim Hinkle; Chris Claxton and Holly York, staff liaisons; James Azeltine and Julie Cain, City Council liaisons

Anne Blessing called the meeting to order at 5:33pm and read the Covid-19 disclaimer.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Anne acknowledge Holly's one year work anniversary and thanked her for her contributions.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Michael Shirley moved that the Minutes of the LAC meeting of September 22, 2020, be approved. Carl McCaffree seconded the motion and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Council Liaison Cain mentioned that many developers want to come to Leawood and there have been many late night work sessions to keep up with the demand. Council Liaison Azeltine added that the Governing Body is reevaluating incentives that are no longer relevant.

MASTER PLAN FOR PUBLIC ART

Holly York reported that she and Chris Claxton met with PLAID Collaborative before Thanksgiving. They have surveyed the public art sites and provided recommendations for landscape enhancements. Next, they will be looking at City owned land for potential art sites.

APPI REPORT

Michael Shirley reported that *Inspiration* and *Women of the World* are installed. Also, an art selection committee is being formed for a new piece for the pool house.

Holly York added that the site for *Skywriting I* will be surveyed by Olson, and the piece might need to be moved to the south closer to a grouping of trees, and the installation is pushed back.

CULTURAL ARTS REPORT

Holly York reported the following:

- Leawood Stage Company had their annual retreat in early November. They have been hosting virtual shows that are being promoted on their social media pages. The shows for spring and summer 2021 are up in the air due to COVID-19.
- The schoolhouse is closed for the winter season.
- Puzzle Palooza was held on November 15. The first place team finished in 56 minutes. More than half of the teams finished within the two hours. Everyone enjoyed the puzzle and the event.
- Winter break art kits are on sale for \$25. They include five different activities. They are recommended for ages 4 and up with adult supervision.

GOALS FOR 2021

Anne shared possible areas of focus for 2021 including promotion of Leawood Public Art, Community Partnerships, and Leawood's 75th Anniversary.

Promoting Public Art

Holly York suggested the following ideas for 2021 to promote Leawood Public Art:

- Might do another public art scavenger hunt but incorporate the new pieces.
- There will be a dedication for *Inspiration* in the spring, hopefully Blitt can attend
- The *Women of the World* dedication will hopefully be end of March, considering a group of Japanese drummers and the mayor speaking
- Definitely will do puzzle palooza again
- Public art pop up sites that include activities such as art making or performances

Community Partnerships

Burton Dunbar inquired about how LAC/ City engages African American residents. Chris Claxton discussed the MLK walkway behind City Hall, which is still in the initial stages of development. Stephanie Hamil suggested incorporating local African American leaders throughout the walk to broaden the scope. Council Liaison Cain added that Negro Creek runs through Leawood at Ironhorse Golf Course, this could be an opportunity for a public marker or artwork. The County Commissioners are considering renaming the creek. Dave Hazen mentioned attending presentations at the Oxford Schoolhouse regarding local and historical contributions from African Americans.

There was further discussion about continuing outdoor concerts because of their popularity due to COVID-19, but including more diverse musicians along with other changes. Suggested partnerships included the Harriman-Jewell series, local school music departments, and spoken word performers.

Events

Events will be discussed at the January meeting.

Leawood's 75th Anniversary

Holly York mentioned that the City of Leawood's 75th anniversary is in 2023.

The Leawood Arts Council could contribute a monumental piece of art to the City. The group agreed this would be a lasting gift.

Chris Claxton asked the council to consider how the new Public Art brochure will be designed and used. This will be discussed at our next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 26th at 4:30PM via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm

Submitted by: Holly York, Cultural Arts Supervisor